

## BUILD SKILLS

### *from The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*

#### LITERARY ANALYSIS

A **slave narrative** is an autobiographical account of the life of a slave. Slave narratives often show the horrors of slavery, telling about a slave's experiences from his or her point of view. In the following example, Olaudah Equiano describes the conditions on the ship that brought him to Barbados. He uses **emotional appeals**, persuasive statements that inspire sympathy in his readers.

The shrieks of the women, and the groans of the dying, rendered the whole a scene of horror almost inconceivable.  
As you read, look for other details that describe the horrors of the voyage.

#### READING STRATEGY

It is helpful to **summarize** the main points of a challenging text. When you summarize, you state briefly in your own words the main ideas and key details of the text. The following chart will help you summarize Equiano's first paragraph. As you read, write notes in the boxes to help you summarize Equiano's ideas.

Main Point	Detail
Slaves were kept in unbearable conditions.	